

REMARKS

Claims 29-37 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 29, 30 and 32 have been amended and claims 11-20 have been canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-20 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 11-20 have been canceled, thereby rendering the first part of the rejection moot. In regard to the rejection applied to claim 30, reference to the non-electronic controller has been eliminated by this Amendment, thereby rendering the second part of the rejection moot as well.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 12 has been canceled, thereby rendering that rejection moot.

Claims 11-14 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Isagawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,331,984) in view of JP 01-141642 to Asai. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 11-14 and 16-20.

In addition, the rejection of claim 15 based on the Isagawa/Asai combination in further view of Nakajima is also rendered moot.

Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Isagawa/Asai combination in further view of JP 2515420 to Okamoto et al. See paragraph 35 of the Office Action. In addition, in paragraph 42 of the Office Action, the same combination of references is used against claims 33-37.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In regard to the rejection of claims 33-37, the Examiner admits in paragraph 46 that the combination of Isagawa in view of Asai in view of Okamoto does not teach that the humidity sensed by the humidity sensor is displayed on the display. However, the Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at that time to have modified the Isagawa/Asai/Okamoto combination by displaying the sensed humidity data on the dishwasher's display. The motivation for making this assertion is that Isagawa teaches a display and that it would have been beneficial to provide the user with the dishwasher's humidity information such that the user could judge whether the drying process is finished or if the dishwasher is malfunctioning.

The Examiner's rationale does not form a proper foundation for making the asserted modification of the prior art. The prior art simply does not teach the combination of displaying a detected humidity on a display and allowing an operator to control the drying process in an independent manner as a function of the detected humidity and the humidity indicated on the display as recited in claim 33. Moreover, the applied prior art references that employ the use of a humidity detector do not display the residing humidity level and automatically control the heater without user input, i.e., a non-independent manner.

The Examiner takes the position that Okamoto includes a halt switch that can be operated at any point during the drying cycle. The reason for this as set forth in paragraph 45 of the Office Action is to allow the operator to have the option of halting the drying process if they suspected a system malfunction or judged the drying process to be finished. However, Okamoto et al. seems to indicate that it's LED/LCD indicate the standard humidity which the user has inputted. Thus, the operator would no idea of the actual humidity level residing inside the dishwasher/dryer. As such, any use of the manual halt switch would not render any meaningful control over the process since the operator would have no clear idea as to the specific humidity level residing inside the dishwasher.

In regard to independent claim 29, which is the analog of method claim 33, the applied combination also does not teach a display that indicates a humidity determined by the humidity sensor and wherein the system is switchable to an off position by an operator in an independent manner as a function of the humidity determined by the humidity sensor and indicated on the display. Again, there is simply no teaching, suggestion or motivation to display the humidity level on Okamoto's display, and to have the operator switch the system to an off position based on the humidity which is displayed on a display.

Moreover, the Examiner apparently considers the recitations regarding the display and the control to be intended use and therefore does not ascribe any patentable weight to these features per paragraphs 35 and 36 of the Office Action. However, claim 29 positively recites a display to indicate the humidity determined by the humidity sensor. Furthermore, the system is positively recited as being switchable to an off position in an

independent manner as a function of the humidity determined by the humidity sensor and indicated on the display. Applicants respectfully submit that such recitations of a system that is switchable to an off position as a function of the humidity which is indicated on the display recites significant structural features such that it is entitled to patentable weight and therefore cannot be ignored by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Isagawa/Asai/Okamoto combination in further view of Nakajima (JP 10-258014). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 32 is directed to a humidity sensor arranged in an upper area of the washing container in the immediate proximity of the washed objects to be dried. By contrast, Nakajima teaches a humidity sensor 28 which is provided within a duct 5. Accordingly, the humidity sensor is not arranged in an upper area of the washing container in the immediate proximity of the washed objects to be dried per claim 32.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully requests entry of the present Amendment. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 30, 2011

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